

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /152 W

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P R 201143Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4110

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1071

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

FROM MEPC DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF UR SY

SUBJ: CURRENT VIEWS OF USSR DEL

1. ZHUKOV OF USSR MEPC DEL CALLED ON DELOFF MORNING FEB 20 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS AND MEPC. DEL OFF GAVE HIM COPY OF FEB 19 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT AND STATEMENT BY DEPT SPOKESMAN CONCERNING SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AREA WHICH WILL BEGIN FEB 25. DELOFF NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO WASHINGTON VISIT OF FONMIN GROMYKO, SECRETARY HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH USSR EMBASSY ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS.

2. ZHUKOV ASKED WHETHER THERE LIKELY BE ANY ACTIVITY IN GENEVA IN NEAR FUTURE. DEL OFF SAID HE HAD NO WORD OF ANY PLANNED
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ACTIVITY AND NO NEWS ABOUT POSSIBLE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR

BUNKER. ZHUKOV AGREED THAT MEANINGFUL SUBSTANTIVE TALKS COULD HARDLY GET UNDERWAY UNTIL ISRAELI-SYRIAN SITUATION CLARIFIED, AND THAT SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AREA WAS VITAL IN ORDER CREATE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO PERMANENT PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. ZHUKOV SAID HE AND AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO RE LIKELY ACTIVITY OR INACTIVITY IN GENEVA FOR NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE BEARING ON THEIR PLANS STAY HERE OR RETURN TO MOSCOW FOR VISIT. DELOFF SAID HE WOULD QUERY DEPT BUT DID NOT KNOW WHETHER DEPT IN POSITION REPLY UNTIL AFTER SECRETARY HAS FINISHED HIS TRIP TO AREA.

3. CONCERNING SYRIA, ZHUKOV (WHO IS USSR FONMIN EQUIVALENT OF DIRECTOR OF ARN AND HAS SERVED IN DAMASCUS) SAID THAT ASSAD IS PRESENTLY IN STRONG POSITION INSIDE SYRIA AND WITH OTHER ARAB GOVTS AND THAT DESPITE SOME INTERNAL GRUMBLING AND OPPOSITION HE IS REPEAT IS IN POSITION NEGOTIATE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND THEN PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA TALKS. ZHUKOV ADDED THAT HE HOPES ANY ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSALS WILL INCLUDE REFERENCE TO FUTURE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. JUST AS EGYPT INSISTED ON IMPORTANCE OF SYRIA AS ESSENTIAL FOLLOW-UP TO ITS OWN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, SARG VIRTUALLY CERTAIN INSIST UPON IMPORTANCE OF PALESTINIAN ELEMENT.DALE

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